



# Westlands Water District

3130 N. Fresno Street, P.O. Box 6056, Fresno, California 93703-6056, (559) 224-1523, FAX (559) 241-6277

December 31, 2015

## **Notice to Landowners of Proposed Water Rates, Charges and Land-Based Charges**

Westlands Water District proposes to impose water rates and charges, effective March 1, 2016 and upon adoption by the Board of Directors, for the purpose of collecting funds to pay costs related to water service. These water rates and charges may be paid by you or by your tenant. The District will collect pass-through costs subject to Federal and State contracts; agreements and laws for U.S. Bureau of Reclamation water rates; Reclamation Fund rates; San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority water rates, charges, and costs; and State Water Resources Control Board fees. Per Board Resolution No. 104-15, adopted on February 17, 2015, for the current and next three fiscal years, these pass-through rates, charges and costs are subject to change by action of the levying agencies, and the District will pass along any rate increases or decreases without another hearing on them.

Westlands Water District also proposes to impose land-based charges, effective March 1, 2016 and upon adoption by the Board of Directors, for the purpose of collecting funds to pay: 1) debt service required as a result of long-term water acquisitions, 2) debt service required as a result of District Water Supply acquisitions related to the *Sagoupe* settlement agreement, 3) extraordinary repairs and replacements of distribution system pipe, 4) drainage service area costs for representation of landowners in dispute with the United States over drainage, 5) a portion of the costs of District operations and maintenance activities and programs (O&M), and 6) Westlands Water Quality Coalition charges.

Westlands Water District also proposes to collect pass-through rates, charges and costs from the San Luis & Delta-Mendota Water Authority for two activity agreements related to the financing of the Delta Habitat Conservation and Conveyance Program (DHCCP) through water rates and land-based charges. Per Board Resolution No. 104-15, adopted on February 17, 2015, for the current and next three fiscal years, these pass-through rates, charges and costs are subject to change by action of the levying agency, and the District will pass along any rate increases or decreases without another hearing on them.

### **Water Rates and Charges**

The District budget will include funding for water costs, which includes a portion of O&M to provide water service to water users. If approved, water delivered by water users will be charged various water rates and/or charges per acre-foot for this water service. The water rates and charges imposed by levying agencies are determined and calculated by such agencies. All other rates and charges are determined on a per acre-foot basis for each water type's associated cost divided by the estimated amount of the water type that will be delivered by water users. Rates and charges for Municipal and Industrial water are an aggregate of: 1) levying agency rates, and 2) rates and charges determined on a per acre-foot basis for each water type's associated cost divided by the estimated amount of the water type that will be delivered by Municipal and Industrial water users.

### **Long-Term Water Supply Debt Service**

The District budget will include funding for debt service related to financing the acquisition of long-term water supplies. If approved, all eligible irrigable lands in Pre-Merger and Merged lands except lands acquired by the District or lands for which the permanent right to the allocation of the District's water supply has been acquired by the District will be proportionately charged. The charge will be determined by parcel based upon the parcel's irrigable acres in proportion to the total irrigable acres, after exclusions, in Pre-Merger and Merged lands.

### **District Water Supply Debt Service**

The District budget will include funding for debt service related to financing the acquisition of District Water Supply in accordance with the *Sagoupe* settlement agreement. If approved, all irrigable lands in Pre-Merger and Merged lands except lands acquired by the District or lands for which the permanent right to the allocation of the District's water supply has been acquired by the District will be charged in accordance with the agreement. The charge will be determined by parcel within each area, based upon the parcel's irrigable acres in proportion to the total irrigable acres, after exclusions, in the respective area.

### **Extraordinary Repairs of Distribution System Pipe**

The District budget will include funding for expenses related to the repair and replacement of certain distribution system pipe. If approved, all irrigable lands in Pre-Merger and Merged lands except lands acquired by the District or lands for which the permanent right to the allocation of the District's water supply has been acquired by the District will be proportionately charged. The charge will be determined by parcel, based upon the parcel's irrigable acres in proportion to the total irrigable acres, after exclusions, in Pre-Merger and Merged lands.

### **Drainage Service Area**

The District budget will include funding for expenses related to costs for representation of landowners in dispute with the United States over drainage. If approved, all lands within the drainage service area, as presented in the Agreement between the United States Department of Interior and Westlands Water District for Land Retirement dated August 11, 1998, except government-owned lands, lands covered by a drainage easement acquired by the government, or lands acquired by the District will be proportionately charged. The charge will be determined by parcel, based upon the parcel's irrigable acres in proportion to the total irrigable acres, after exclusions, in the drainage service area.

### **Operations and Maintenance Costs**

The District budget will include funding for the costs of O&M. If approved, irrigable lands, except lands acquired by the District, will be charged their share of a portion of these costs based upon certain attributes. Specifically, all lands in the District will bear 10% of the cost; lands with allocation will bear an additional 10% of the cost; lands with distribution system will bear an additional 5% of the cost and lands with both allocation and distribution system will bear an added 25% of the cost. The charge will be determined by parcel, based upon the parcel's irrigable acres in proportion to the total irrigable acres subject to the charge after exclusions.

### **Westlands Water Quality Coalition**

The District budget will include funding for the Westlands Water Quality Coalition (Coalition) which was formed to serve as the third-party representative for land owners and operators of irrigated lands covered under the Regional Water Quality Control Board's Waste Discharge Requirements General Order for the Western Tulare Lake Basin Watershed. If approved, all irrigable lands that have been enrolled in the Coalition will be proportionately charged. The charge will be determined

by parcel, based on the parcel's irrigable acres in proportion to the total irrigable acres, after exclusions, in the Coalition service area.

**Calculation of Charges**

Enclosed with this Notice is a listing of proposed water rates and charges that identifies the charge per unit that will be billed to District water users and also includes the land-based charge per acre for the Westlands Water Quality Coalition. Also enclosed with this Notice is a listing of proposed land-based charges that identifies for the landowner of record each parcel, the irrigable acres for each parcel, the charge per acre, and the calculated charge per parcel. If the parcel's irrigable acres are too small to generate a charge, a listing of proposed land-based charges will not be enclosed.

**Public Hearing**

The District will hold a public hearing on the proposed water rates, charges and land-based charges on Tuesday, February 16, 2016, at 1:00 p.m., or as soon thereafter as the matter may be heard, at the District's Fresno Office, 3130 N. Fresno Street, Fresno, CA 93703.

At this public hearing, the Board shall hear and consider all objections or protests, if any, to the proposed water rates, charges and land-based charges.

Landowners may file written protests against any or all proposed water rate(s), charge(s) and/or land-based charges with the District Secretary at or before the close of the public hearing. Protests must indicate the water rate(s), charge(s) and/or land-based charges being opposed and contain a description of the land owned sufficient to identify the land. If the name on the written protest is not shown on the last equalized assessment roll of the District as the owner of the land, the signer of the protest must also submit written evidence of ownership. Written protests may be mailed to:

District Secretary  
Westlands Water District  
P.O. Box 6056  
Fresno, CA 93703-6056

If written protests against a proposed water rate, charge or land-based charge are filed by a majority of the affected landowners, the rate or charge will not be imposed. If you have any questions about the proposed water rates and charges, please call Customer Accounting at (559) 241-6250. If you have any questions about the proposed land-based charges, please call Deborah Tuggle at (559) 241-6212.

**WESTLANDS WATER DISTRICT**  
**3130 North Fresno Street, P. O. Box 6056, Fresno, CA 93703-6056**  
**Telephone (559) 224-1523**

**PROPOSED WATER RATES AND CHARGES**

**For Hearing of February 16, 2016**

**Information about this listing of proposed rates and charges is provided in the enclosed Notice**

<u>Description</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Unit</u>	<u>Reason for the Charge</u>
<b>United States Bureau of Reclamation</b>			
Ag Water - Contract	\$ 98.72	[1]	AF Water supply cost paid to levying agency
Ag Water - Full Cost 202(3)	\$ 97.30	[1]	AF Water supply cost paid to levying agency
Ag Water - Full Cost 205(a)(3)	\$ 121.51	[1]	AF Water supply cost paid to levying agency
Ag Water - Restoration Fund	\$ 10.21	[1]	AF Water supply cost paid to levying agency
<b>San Luis &amp; Delta-Mendota Water Authority</b>			
Authority Operations & Maintenance	\$ 91.81	[1]	AF Water supply cost paid to levying agency
Authority DHCCP Activity Agreements	\$ 5.93	[1] [2]	AF Water supply cost paid to levying agency
<b>State Water Resource Control Board</b>			
Water Rights Fee	\$ 15.66	[1]	AF Water supply cost paid to levying agency
<b>Westlands Water District</b>			
District O&M	\$ 115.77	AF	Portion of District operations and maintenance activities and programs
Groundwater Management Program	\$ 260.00	AF	Operating cost of Groundwater Management Program
Groundwater Management Program - ISMP	\$ 160.00	AF	Operating cost of ISMP
Overuse of Water Supply	\$ 1,524.00	AF	Acquisition of water supply for water user deliveries exceeding allocation
Prior Years Restoration Fund	-	AF	Under-collection due to USBR rate change not implemented by District
Temporary Facilities Surcharge	\$ 200.00	AF	Operating cost of temporary diversion facilities
Water Allocation Benefit	\$ 15.58	AF	20% of annual debt service for 1965 Repayment Contract for distribution and drainage systems
Water Delivered Benefit	\$ 10.55	AF	30% of annual debt service for 1965 Repayment Contract for distribution and drainage systems
Water Exchange Obligation	\$ 11.37	AF	Cost of water supply to repay historical water exchange
USBR O&M Deficit	\$ 71.15	AF	Portion of USBR operations and maintenance activities and programs
<b>Municipal and Industrial</b>			
Acquired Supply	\$ 518.24	AF	Delivered cost of Municipal & Industrial water
Acquired Supply - NASL	\$ 1,129.41	AF	Delivered cost of Municipal & Industrial water

[1] Per Board Resolution No. 104-15, adopted February 17, 2015, for the current year and next three fiscal years, these amounts will be automatically adjusted to pass-through the adopted increases or decreases in the rates, charges or costs established by the levying agency.

[2] For billing purposes, these amounts will be added to the District O & M rate.